Pakistan's relationship with North Korea

541. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has indicated that the improved relations between India and China will in no way interfere with the ongoing cooperation between China and Pakistan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan has also developed a strategic relationship with North Korea from where it is acquiring missile hardware and technology; and

(c) if so, what action Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) China maintains that it has normal bilateral relations with Pakistan which cover all areas including military cooperation. Its relations with Pakistan are not aimed at any third country. At the same time, it does not want its relations with Pakistan to be affected by a third country.

(b) It is a fact that North Korea has assisted Pakistan with long range missiles, missile technology and components; Ghauri is a Pakistani version of the North Korean 'Nodong' missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

(c) The Government has highlighted, in various fora, the adverse effect on India's security of continuing transfers of nuclear and missile technology and equipment to Pakistan despite the existence of various export control regimes, and declarations of restraint and restrictions by supplier countries. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to our security.